**Brazil Facts and Culture**

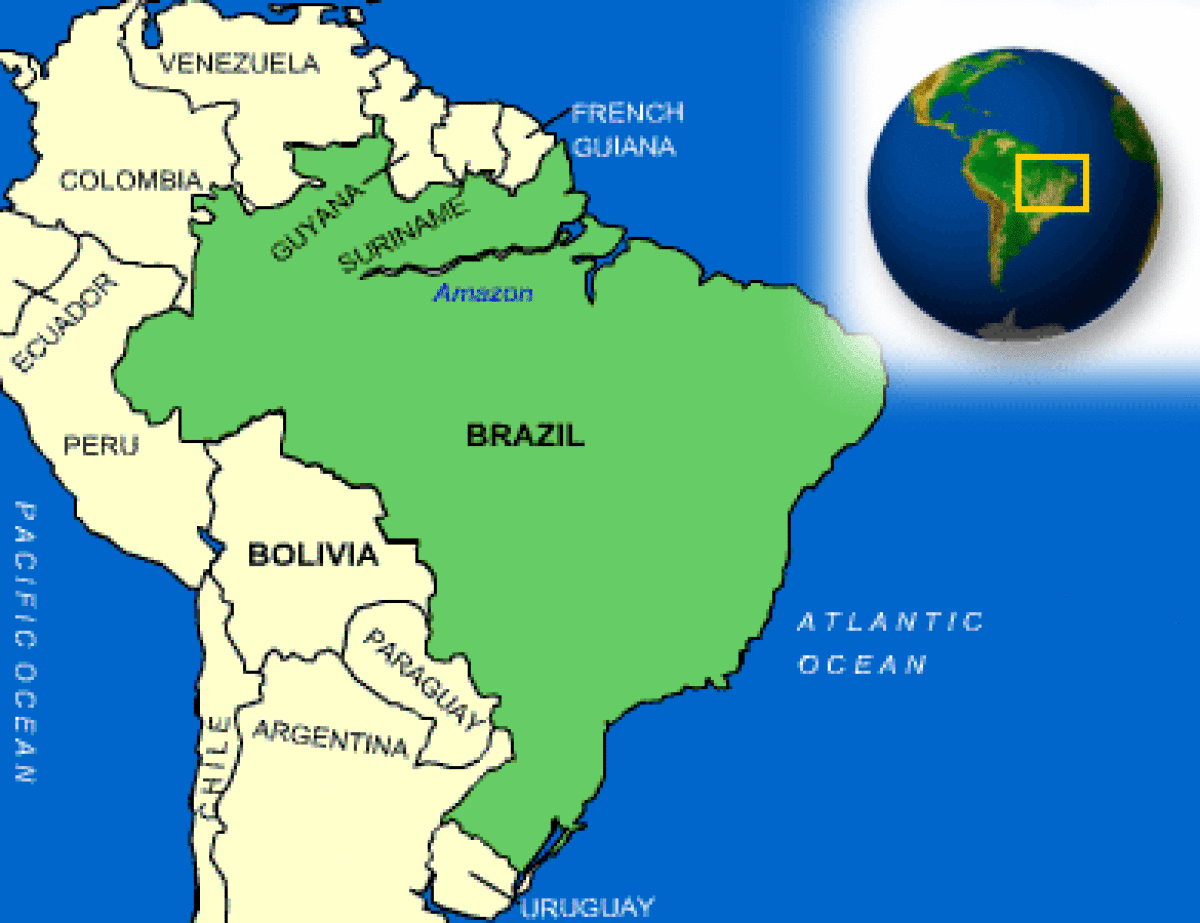
* [Food and Recipes:](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/recipes.htm) Brazilians eat in continental style. People wash their hands before eating and refrain from touching food while eating. One's mouth... [More](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/recipes.htm)
* [Family:](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/family.htm) Families are traditionally large and may include the extended family. The elderly who cannot care for themselves live with their... [More](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/family.htm)
* [Fashion:](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/fashion.htm) Brazilians prefer to wear European fashions, specifically Italian and French, in the cities. The people are very fashion conscious, especially... [More](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/fashion.htm)
* [Visiting:](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/visiting.htm) Brazilians enjoy visiting with one another. Their warm climate permits for much time outdoors, including socializing outdoors late into the... [More](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/visiting.htm)

**Brazil Facts**

Brazil stats

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Capital | Brasilia |
| Government Type | federal republic |
| Currency | real (BRL) |
| Population | 201,009,622 |
| Total Area | 3,287,594 Square Miles 8,514,877 Square Kilometers |
| Location | Eastern South America, bordering the Atlantic Ocean |
| Language | Portuguese (official and most widely spoken language)  note: less common languages include Spanish (border areas and schools), German, Italian, Japanese, English, and a large number of minor Amerindian languages |

Map of Brazil



**Geography**

**Terrain and geography**

Brazil, with a land area of 3.29 million square miles, is slightly larger than the continental U.S. It extends from the Amazonian equatorial plains at latitude 4 degrees N. to cool uplands at 30 degrees S., where frost occurs frequently. Brazil borders all South American countries, except Chile and Ecuador. To the east, the Brazilian coastline extends 4,600 miles along the Atlantic Ocean.

The vast regions of the Amazon and La Plata River basins occupy about three-fifths of the total area. The country’s main physical feature is the huge plateau that rises from 1,000 to 3,000 feet above sea level between São Paulo and Rio Grande do Sul. This is intersected by two mountain ranges. The highest, 9,823 feet is near Rio de Janeiro. The second mountain system, located in central Brazil, has an eastern range with a maximum altitude of 4,206 feet and a western peak of 4,500 feet near the city of Goiánia. Due to its great plains and basins, 40% of the country has an average altitude of only 650 feet.

**Geography - note**

largest country in South America; shares common boundaries with every South American country except Chile and Ecuador

**Brazil Geography**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Geographic Location | South America |
| Total Area | 3,287,594 Square Miles 8,514,877 Square Kilometers |
| Land Area | 3,266,181 Square Miles 8,459,417 Square Kilometers |
| Water Area | 21,413 Square Miles 55,460 Square Kilometers |
| Land Boundaries | 10,492 Miles 16,885 Kilometers |
| Irrigated Land | 20,849 Square Miles 54,000 Square Kilometers |
| Border Countries | Argentina 1,261 km, Bolivia 3,423 km, Colombia 1,644 km, French Guiana 730 km, Guyana 1,606 km, Paraguay 1,365 km, Peru 2,995 km, Suriname 593 km, Uruguay 1,068 km, Venezuela 2,200 km |
| Coastline | 4,655 Miles 7,491 Kilometers |
| Geographic Coordinates | 10 00 S, 55 00 W |
| Terrain | mostly flat to rolling lowlands in north; some plains, hills, mountains, and narrow coastal belt |
| Highest Point | 2,994 Meters |
| Highest Point Location | Pico da Neblina 2,994 m |
| Lowest Point Location | Atlantic Ocean 0 m |
| Natural Resources | bauxite, gold, iron ore, manganese, nickel, phosphates, platinum, tin, rare earth elements, uranium, petroleum, hydropower, timber |
| Time Zone | UTC-3 (2 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)  note: Brazil is divided into three time zones, including one for the Fernando de Noronha Islands |
| Daylight saving time | +1hr, begins third Sunday in October; ends third Sunday in February |

**Brazil Weather and Climate**

**Climate and Weather**

Although Brazil is immense in size and varies in topography from the sweeping sea-level Amazon basin in the north to the mountainous areas of São Paulo and Porto Alegre in the south, the temperature range is slight.

Summer runs from December to February. The rainy season runs from October to March, but varies greatly by region.

**Brazil Environmental Issues**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Climate | Although Brazil is immense in size and varies in topography from the sweeping sea-level Amazon basin in the north to the mountainous areas of São Paulo and Porto Alegre in the south, the temperature range is slight.  Summer runs from December to February. The rainy season runs from October to March, but varies greatly by region. |
| Terrain | mostly flat to rolling lowlands in north; some plains, hills, mountains, and narrow coastal belt |
| Natural Resources | bauxite, gold, iron ore, manganese, nickel, phosphates, platinum, tin, rare earth elements, uranium, petroleum, hydropower, timber |
| Natural Hazards | recurring droughts in northeast; floods and occasional frost in south |
| Irrigated Land | 20,849 Square Miles 54,000 Square Kilometers |
| Environmental Issues | deforestation in Amazon Basin destroys the habitat and endangers a multitude of plant and animal species indigenous to the area; there is a lucrative illegal wildlife trade; air and water pollution in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and several other large cities; land degradation and water pollution caused by improper mining activities; wetland degradation; severe oil spills |
| Environment - International Agreements | party to: Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Antarctic-Marine Living Resources, Antarctic Seals, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands, Whaling   signed, but not ratified: none of the selected agreements |

**Brazil Population Details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Population | 201,009,622 |
| Population Growth Rate | 0.83% |
| Urban Population | 84.6% |
| Population in Major Urban Areas | Sao Paulo 19.924 million; Rio de Janeiro 11.96 million; Belo Horizonte 5.487 million; Porto Alegre 3.933 million; Recife 3.733 million; BRASILIA (capital) 3.813 million |
| Nationality Noun | Brazilian(s) |
| Nationality Adjective | Brazilian |
| Ethnic Groups | white 53.7%, mulatto (mixed white and black) 38.5%, black 6.2%, other (includes Japanese, Arab, Amerindian) 0.9%, unspecified 0.7% |
| Languages | Portuguese (official and most widely spoken language)  note: less common languages include Spanish (border areas and schools), German, Italian, Japanese, English, and a large number of minor Amerindian languages |
| Rate of Urbanization- annual rate of change | 1.15% |

**Brazil Medical Information**

Medical care is generally good but it varies in quality, particularly in remote areas, and it may not meet U.S. standards outside the major cities. Prescription and over-the-counter medicines are widely available. Emergency services are responsive. Travelers may call a private ambulance company or call 192 and request an ambulance for a public hospital. Callers must stay on the line to provide the location as there is no automatic tracking of phone calls. Other important phone numbers include, Emergency 199, Police 190 and Fire Department 193.  
  
Sao Paulo: Expatriates regularly use the Albert Einstein Hospital in Sao Paulo. It is inspected and certified by the Joint Commission International and offers international service assistance. The hospital phone number is 011-55-11-3747-1233.  
  
Rio de Janeiro: In Rio, many expatriates go to Hospital Samaritano (Rua Bambina 98, Botafogo; tel. 2537-9722; ambulance tel. 2535 4000); or Pro-Cardi­aco, which specializes in cardiac care but also offers other specialty services (Rua Dona Mariana 219, Botafogo; tel. 2131-1400 or 2528-1442, ambulance tel. 2527-6060).  
  
Information on vaccinations and other health issues in Brazil, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747) and their " Yellow Book ". For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad and for general and country specific health information for travelers, consult the World Health Organization (WHO).  
  
General Vaccinations: All travelers should visit either their personal physician or a travel health clinic 4-8 weeks before departure, as some vaccines and malaria prophylaxis must be given a few weeks before travel. All travelers to Brazil, and those transiting the country, should have prior vaccinations for Hepatitis A, typhoid, and Hepatitis B. Routine immunizations including MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis), and varicella should be up to date. Neither cholera nor polio vaccines are recommended except under specific circumstances. Consult the Yellow Book for more information.  
  
Insect-borne Illnesses: Insect-borne illnesses are common in Brazil, principally yellow fever, malaria, leishmaniasis, and dengue. Vaccination is available to prevent yellow fever, and prophylactic medication can be used to lower the risk of malaria. Chagas disease (a/k/a American trypanosomiasis ) transmission has been eliminated in every state except Bahia and Tocantins through an aggressive program of insecticide spraying.  
  
The first-line of protection against all insect bites is the use of insect repellents (less than or equal to 30% DEET content for children above two months of age), but mosquito nets, mosquito coils, aerosol sprays, protective clothing, use of screens, or staying in air-conditioned environment when available are also alternatives.  
  
Dengue: There is no vaccine for dengue. Dengue usually presents fever, rash, and body aches, or there are no symptoms and clears relatively quickly; however, it can be rapidly fatal in a minority of severe cases. Consult CDC Yellow Book for the signs and symptoms of severe dengue.  
  
Malaria: Malaria is present throughout the year in forested areas of the Amazon region, but it tends to be seasonal (southern summer) elsewhere in the country; mostly on the periphery of cities and towns in the Amazon region. There is little to no risk of malaria in other areas of Brazil.  
  
Yellow Fever: The yellow fever vaccine is recommended for travelers over nine months of age to the states of Acre, Amapá, Amazones, Distrito Federal (including the capital city of Brasília), Goiás, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Pará, Rondônia, Roraima, Tocantins, and designated areas of the following states: Piauí, Bahia, São Paulo, Paraná, Santa Catarina, and Rio Grande do Sul. The vaccine is also recommended for travelers visiting Iguaçu Falls. Daytime insect precautions are essential for unvaccinated travelers.  
  
Yellow fever vaccine is not recommended for itineraries limited to the cities of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Salvador, Recife, or Fortaleza, or any other areas not listed above. Travelers over age 65 should consult with their physician prior to receiving yellow fever vaccination.  
  
Rabies: The rabies vaccination is recommended for prolonged stays, with a priority for children and those planning rural travel. For shorter stays, rabies vaccination is recommended for adventure travelers, those with occupational exposure to animals, and those staying in locations more than 24 hours from access to rabies immune globulin.  
  
Travelers' Diarrhea (TD): Travelers' diarrhea is the most common travel-related ailment. The cornerstone of prevention is food and water precautions: (1) do not drink tap water unless it has been boiled, filtered, or chemically disinfected and (2) do not drink unbottled beverages or drinks with ice. Do not eat raw or undercooked meat or fish, including ceviche. The most important treatment measure for TD is rehydration, best performed with oral rehydration solution available in almost all pharmacies in Brazil.  
  
Tuberculosis: Brazil is a high-burden country for tuberculosis, but short-term travelers are not considered at high risk for infection unless visiting crowded environments such as hospitals, prisons, or homeless shelters. If you are at risk, consult with your health care provider or travel health clinic for possible use of tuberculin skin testing before and after returning from Brazil.  
  
Elective Surgery: Plastic and other elective/cosmetic surgery is a major medical industry in Brazil. While Brazil has many plastic surgery facilities that are on par with those found in the United States, the quality of care varies widely. If you are planning to undergo plastic surgery in Brazil, make sure that emergency medical facilities are available. Some "boutique" plastic surgery operations offer luxurious facilities but are not hospitals and are therefore unable to deal with emergencies.  
  
Non-traditional Medicine: Several U.S. citizens have died while visiting non-traditional healers outside of urban areas. While this is not surprising given that this type of treatment often attracts the terminally ill, U.S. citizens are advised to ensure they have access to proper medical care when visiting such sites.

**Brazil Health Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Health Expenditures (% of GDP) | 8.9% |
| Death Rate/1,000 population | 6.51 |
| Obesity- adult prevalence rate | 18.8% |
| Hospital Bed Density/1,000 population | 2.3 |
| Physicians Density/1,000 population | 1.76 |
| Infant Mortality Rate/1,000 population | 19.83 |
| Infant Mortality Rate- Female/1,000 population | 16.34 |
| Infant Mortality Rate- Male/1,000 population | 23.16 |
| Underweight - percent of children under five years | 2.2% |
| Total Fertility Rate | 1.81 |
| Contraceptive prevalance rate (female 15-49) | 80.3% |
| Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births | 56 |
| Drinking Water Source: unimproved | 2.5% |
| Drinking Water Source - percent of rural population improved | 85.3% |
| Drinking Water Source - percent of urban population improved | 99.7% |
| Sanitation Facility Access: unimproved | 18.7% |
| Sanitation Facility Access - percent of urban population improved | 87% |
| Sanitation Facitlity Access - percent of rural population improved | 49.2% |

**Brazil Crime**

**Crime Information**

Brazilian police and media report that the crime rate remains high in most urban centers, including the cities of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, and is also growing in rural areas within those states. Brazil's murder rate is more than four times higher than that of the United States, and rates for other crimes are similarly high.  
  
Street crime remains a problem for visitors and local residents alike. Foreign tourists, including U.S. citizens, are often targets, especially in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, and Recife. While the risk is greater during the evening and at night, street crime also occurs during the day, and safer areas of cities are not immune. Incidents of theft on city buses are frequent. You should keep a copy of your passport with you while in public and keep your passport in a hotel safe or other secure place. You should also carry proof of your health insurance with you.  
  
The incidence of crime against tourists is greater in areas surrounding beaches, hotels, discotheques, bars, nightclubs, and other tourist destinations. It is especially prevalent prior to and during Carnival (Brazilian Mardi Gras), but also occurs throughout the year. Several Brazilian cities have established specialized tourist police units to patrol areas frequented by tourists.  
  
Use caution when traveling through rural areas and satellite cities due to reported incidents of roadside robberies that randomly target passing vehicles. Robberies and "quicknappings" outside of banks and ATMs occur regularly. In a "quicknapping," criminals abduct victims for a short time in order to receive a quick payoff from the family, business, or the victim's ATM card. Some victims have been beaten and/or raped. You should also take precautions to avoid being carjacked, especially in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Recife, and other cities.  
  
In airports, hotel lobbies, bus stations, and other public places, pick pocketing and the theft of hand-carried luggage and laptop computers is common. You should "dress down" when in public and avoid carrying valuables or wearing jewelry or expensive watches. "Good Samaritan" scams are common. If a tourist looks lost or seems to be having trouble communicating, a seemingly innocent bystander offering help may actually be a participant in a scam. Take care at and around banks and ATMs which accept U.S. credit or debit cards. Travelers using personal ATM or credit cards sometimes receive billing statements with unauthorized charges after returning from a visit to Brazil, or discover that their cards were cloned or duplicated without their knowledge. If you use such payment methods, carefully monitor your bank records for the duration of your visit.  
  
While the ability of Brazilian police to help recover stolen property is limited, we strongly advise you to obtain a "boletim de ocorrencia" (police report) at a "delegacia" (police station) if any of your possessions are lost or stolen. This will facilitate your exit from Brazil and assist with insurance claims. Be aware, however, that the police in tourist areas are on the lookout for false reports of theft for purposes of insurance fraud.  
  
Do not buy counterfeit and pirated goods, even if they are widely available. These goods are illegal in the United States, and if you purchase them you may also be breaking local law.  
  
Brasilia: Brasilia has significant crime problems. Reports of residential burglaries continue to occur in the generally affluent residential sections of the city. Public transportation, hotel sectors, and tourist areas report the highest crime rates, but statistics show that these incidents can happen anywhere and at anytime. The "satellite cities" that surround Brasilia have per-capita crime rates comparable to much larger cities. Police reports indicate that rates of all types of crime, including "quicknappings," have risen dramatically in Brasilia in the last two years. Brasilia's Central Bus Station or "Rodoviaria" is a particularly dangerous area, especially at night. This location is known to have a large concentration of drug dealers and users. Illegal drugs such as crack cocaine and "oxi" (a derivative of cocaine base produced with cheaper chemicals) have become very common in the "Plano Piloto" area and satellite cities.  
  
Rio de Janeiro: The city continues to experience high incidences of crime. Tourists are particularly vulnerable to street thefts and robberies in the evening and at night especially in areas adjacent to major tourist attractions. There have been attacks, including shootings, along trails leading to the famous Corcovado Mountain and in other parts of the Tijuca Forest. If robbed, do not attempt to resist or fight back, but rather relinquish your personal belongings. At all times, pay close attention to your surroundings and the behavior of those nearby. There have been reports of thieves and rapists slipping incapacitating drugs into drinks at bars, hotel rooms, and street parties. While crime occurs throughout the year, it is more frequent during Carnival and the weeks prior.  
  
Choose lodging carefully considering location, security, and the availability of a safe to store valuables. Do not answer your hotel room door until you positively confirm who is on the other side. Look out the peephole or call the front desk to confirm the visitor. There have been several recent incidents where mass holdups of guests have occurred at hotels and hostels in the city.  
  
Rio de Janeiro's favelas are a subject of curiosity for many U.S. travelers. A favela pacification program, instituted in 2008, installed police stations in some favelas, primarily in the Zona Sul area. However, most favelas exist outside the control of city officials and police. Travelers are urged to exercise caution when entering any "pacified" favelas and should not go into favelas that are not "pacified" by the state government. Even in some "pacified" favelas, the ability of police to provide assistance, especially at night, may be limited. Several local companies offer "favela jeep tours" targeted at foreign tourists. Be aware that neither the tour company nor the city police can guarantee your safety when entering favelas.  
  
Be vigilant while on the roads, especially at night. There have been shootings and carjackings on the Linha Vermelha that links the airport to the Southern Zone of the city. In Rio de Janeiro, motorists should be especially vigilant at stoplights and when stuck in traffic. Carjackings and holdups can occur at intersections, especially at night. Incidents of crime on public transportation are frequent, and at times have involved violent crimes. When traveling by yellow taxi, tourists are recommended only to use taxis openly displaying company information and phone numbers as well as red license plates. Tourists are also advised not to use public vans.  
  
Visitors should also remain alert to the possibility of manhole cover explosions. There have been multiple manhole cover explosions in Rio de Janeiro in the past few years, with a higher incidence in the Centro and Copacabana neighborhoods.  
  
Report all incidents to Rio's tourist police (DEAT) at (21) 2332-2924. The tourist police have been very responsive to victims and cooperative with the U.S. Consulate General.  
  
Sao Paulo: All areas of Greater Sao Paulo have a high rate of armed robbery of pedestrians and drivers at stoplights and during rush hour traffic. The "red light districts" of Sao Paulo, located on Rua Augusta north of Avenida Paulista and the Estacao de Luz metro area, are especially dangerous. There are regular reports of young women slipping various drugs into men's drinks and robbing them of all their belongings while they are unconscious. Armed holdups of pedestrians and motorists by young men on motorcycles ("motoboys") are a common occurrence in Sao Paulo. Criminals have also begun targeting restaurants throughout the city, frequently between the hours of 10:00 pm and 4:00 am, at establishments in the upscale neighborhoods of Jardins, Itaim Bibi, Campo Belo, Morumbi and Moema. Victims who resist run the risk of violent attack. Laptop computers, other electronics, and luxury watches are the targets of choice for criminals in Sao Paulo.  
  
Efforts of incarcerated drug lords to exert their power outside of their jail cells have resulted in sporadic disruptions in the city, violence directed at the authorities, bus burnings, and vandalism at ATM machines, including the use of explosives. Be aware of your surroundings and exercise caution at all times. Respect police roadblocks and be aware that some municipal services may be disrupted.  
  
As in Rio de Janeiro, favela tours have recently become popular among foreign tourists in Sao Paulo. We advise you to avoid Sao Paulo's favelas as neither the tour company nor the city police can guarantee your safety when entering favelas.  
  
Recife: As in Rio de Janeiro, tourists in Recife should take special care while on the beaches, as robberies may occur in broad daylight. In the upscale Boa Viagem neighborhood, carjackings can occur at any time of the day or night.   
Individuals with ties to criminal entities and traffickers operate along all the Brazilian borders. These organizations are involved in the trafficking of illicit goods and drugs. U.S. citizens crossing into bordering countries should consult the Country Specific Information on the relevant nation.  
  
Colombian terrorist groups have been known to operate in the border areas of neighboring countries. Although there have been reports of isolated small-scale armed incursions from Colombia into Brazil in the past, we know of no specific threat directed against U.S. citizens across the border in Brazil at this time.  
  
Colombian groups have kidnapped residents and tourists along the Colombian border. If you are traveling or residing in this area we urge you to exercise caution when visiting remote parts of the Amazon basin, and respect local laws and customs. You should ensure that your outfitter/guide is familiar with the Amazon region.

**Brazil Penalties for Crime**

**Criminal Penalties**

U.S. citizens are subject to the laws and regulations of any foreign country they are visiting or residing in. Foreign laws and legal systems can be vastly different from our own. Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than in the United States for similar offenses. Persons violating Brazilian laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking of illegal drugs in Brazil are especially severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. The Brazilian judicial process can be slow and cumbersome.  
  
There are also some things that might be legal in Brazil, but illegal in the United States. For instance, you can be prosecuted under U.S. law if you buy pirated goods in Brazil. In addition, engaging in sexual conduct with children or using or disseminating child pornography in a foreign country is a crime, prosecutable in the United States. In November 2008, Brazil passed a series of laws designed to strengthen protection of children against sexual exploitation. Brazilian police in tourist areas such as Rio de Janeiro are on the lookout for foreigners inappropriately touching or photographing minors. If you break local laws in Brazil, your U.S. passport will not help you avoid arrest or prosecution.  
  
According to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, and customary international law, if you are arrested in Brazil, you have the option to request that the authorities alert the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. We recommend that you carry the contact information for the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate with you when traveling.

**Brazil Life Expectancy**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Life Expectancy At Birth | 73 Years |
| Life Expectancy At Birth- Female | 76 Years |
| Life Expectancy At Birth- Male | 69 Years |
| Median Age (female) | 31 Years |
| Median Age (male) | 29 Years |
| Median Age | 30 Years |

**Brazil Language**

Portuguese is Brazil's official language. English, German, and French are popular second languages. Although Spanish is also understood by Portuguese speakers, some Brazilians may be offended when deliberately spoken in Spanish.

**Brazil Literacy**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Predominant Language | Portuguese (official and most widely spoken language)  note: less common languages include Spanish (border areas and schools), German, Italian, Japanese, English, and a large number of minor Amerindian languages |
| Literacy Definition | age 15 and over can read and write |
| Literacy Female | 88.8% |
| Literacy Male | 88.4% |
| Literacy Total | 88.6% |

**Brazil Education**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Education Expenditures - percent of GDP | 5.8% |
| Literacy - female | 88.8% |
| Literacy - male | 88.4% |
| Literacy - total population | 88.6% |
| Literacy Definition | age 15 and over can read and write |

**Brazil Age of Population**

Age 0-14: 24.2 %Age 15-24: 16.7 %Age 25-54: 43.6 %Age 55-64: 8.2 %Over 64: 7.3 %Highcharts.com

**Classroom**

Primary schools are run by the cities, secondary schools are under the control of Brazilian states, and the national government operates the universities*.* At all levels, there is not enough money in the public school system to properly educate students. There are not enough books and other materials, and teachers are paid poorly. The buildings themselves are usually made of brick, but may not have windows, and the only teaching materials are usually a blackboard and chalk. Schools are often run down and not well maintained; however, they usually do have electricity, running water, and a bathroom.

A related problem is the lack of properly trained teachers. As many as a quarter of a million teaching positions remain unfilled each year, which means that many people are hired to teach without any training besides their desire to help where they can. Too often, that is not enough.

Most students in both public and private schools are required to wear a school uniform, which usually includes a simple T-shirt with the school’s name printed on it.

Interestingly, part of the reason for the overcrowding is that the government has been working to increase the number of children who attend school. In 2000, 94 percent of primary-aged children attended school, as opposed to only 84 percent nearly a decade earlier and 50 percent in 1960. More children, fewer funds—the result is educational failure for hundreds of thousands of children. It is not surprising that there is a very high drop out rate as the children get older.

**Education Culture**

The public school system in Brazil is free. Children from ages 7 to 14 are required to attend primary school and from ages 15 to 17 must attend secondary school, but the law is very difficult to enforce. Public high schools are also free, but most high schools are private, many of which are run by the Catholic Church.

School begins in Brazil in mid-February, right after the summer break, and goes until the end of November. Students then have the months of December, January, and part of February to enjoy a summer vacation. The school year has four quarters, with a four-week vacation in July.

School begins at 7:30 or 8:00 in the morning and lasts only four hours, finishing at noon. Students return home to eat their midday meal, which is still the most important meal of the day in much of the country. Some schools are in session Monday through Saturday and just have Sunday off, although most hold classes only Monday through Friday. After the midday meal, students are expected to study at home.

But Brazilian schools are in trouble, especially the public schools. The government has not supplied enough funds to properly run the school system. Teachers are not properly trained, and children are not learning as they should. Fewer than 1 out of every 20 fourth graders is able to read very well at all, and less than 2 of every 20 have the math skills that they should have. Private and community groups recognize the terrible conditions of modern education and are trying to add classes and opportunities outside of the schools, but they have too few resources and there are far too many children to take care of.

One way of dealing with the social problems that the children face is by providing school fulltime instead of just in the mornings. This helps keep them off the streets and out of trouble. Also, by educating the children better, caring individuals hope to teach the children to get better jobs than their parents have and thus break the cycle of poverty in which these children are being raised. Approximately 60 percent of all Brazilian adults have four years of school or less. Similarly, because many older children must quit school to get a job, less than 40 percent of secondary-school aged children are in school. In poorer families, children quit school as early as ten years old to join their families at work.

**Learning**

There is a lot of variation in schools in Brazil, but basic classes include Portuguese, social studies, history, geography, science, and math. Brazil is the only country in South America that speaks Portuguese as the national language instead of Spanish. English is the most popular second language for students in school. However, most of the children who learn a second language will do so through speaking to tourists and people living in Brazil who were born elsewhere. The school system usually does not do a very good job at educating the children, despite the efforts of some very dedicated teachers. There are simply not enough of them, nor do they have enough resources.

High school students take classes in Portuguese, literature, biology, chemistry, geography, physics, math, history, geometry, social studies, physical education, and a second language (typically English).

Most kids are able to write and read very basic Portuguese when they leave school for jobs, but many are not able to do so fluently with a very large vocabulary. In other words, most can get by in day to day living, but even simple reports would be challenging for most to write.

In some rural areas where teachers and schools just cannot meet the demands, the government broadcasts classes over the radio.

One study reported on the drop out rate of students from schools. To begin with, only 12.5% of all preschool age children actually attend preschool. Of every 100 students that begin first grade, half will quit during the first two years of school. Thirteen more will be gone by fourth grade, and another 20 will quit by 8th grade. Only 9 of the original 100 will finish high school, and only 6 will attend university. The study did not say how many would graduate from the university.

**To School**

Kids in rural schools will walk, ride their bikes, or even take a boat for half an hour to get to school. Many of these poorer students do not have electricity or running water in their homes. In the cities, electricity is much more common, but even then not every one will be guaranteed power in their homes 24 hours a day. In the cities, poorer children will walk to school, but wealthier families will often drive their children to school (usually private school!). School begins at 7:30 or 8:00 in the morning and is finished at noon. Students return home to eat their midday meal, which is still the most important meal of the day in much of the country.

**Brazil Government**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Capital Name | Brasilia |
| Country Name | Brazil |
| Local - Long | Republica Federativa do Brasil |
| Full Country Name | Federative Republic of Brazil |
| Local - Short | Brasil |
| Government Type | federal republic |
| Capital - geographic coordinate | 15 47 S, 47 55 W |
| Daylight Savings Time | +1hr, begins third Sunday in October; ends third Sunday in February |
| Capital Time Difference | UTC-3 (2 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)  note: Brazil is divided into three time zones, including one for the Fernando de Noronha Islands |
| National Holiday | Independence Day, 7 September (1822) |
| Constitution | 5 October 1988 |
| Legal System | civil law; note - a new civil law code was enacted in 2002 replacing the 1916 code |
| Suffrage | voluntary between 16 to under 18 years of age and over 70; compulsory 18 to 70 years of age; note - military conscripts do not vote by law |

Top of Form



Bottom of Form

**Brazil Economy Data**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| GDP - Gross Domestic Product | $2,416,000,000,000 (USD) |
| GDP - official exchange rate | $2,190,000,000,000 (USD) |
| GDP - real growth rate | 2.3% |
| GDP Per Capita | $12,100.00 (USD) |
| GDP by Sector- agriculture | 5.5% |
| GDP by Sector- Industry | 26.4% |
| GDP by Sector- services | 68.1% |
| Population Below Poverty Line | 21.4% |
| Inflation Rate | 5.5% |
| Labor Force | 107,100,000 |
| Labor Force By Occupation- agriculture | 15.7% |
| Labor Force By Occupation- industry | 13.3% |
| Labor Force By Occupation- services | 71% |
| Unemployment Rate | 6.2% |
| Fiscal Year | calendar year |
| Annual Budget | $911,400,000,000 (USD) |
| Budget Surplus or Deficit - percent of GDP | 1.6% |
| Public Debt (% of GDP) | 54.9% |
| Taxes and other revenues - percent of GDP | 38.9% |
| Major Industries | textiles, shoes, chemicals, cement, lumber, iron ore, tin, steel, aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, other machinery and equipment |
| Industrial Growth Rate | -0.3% |
| Agriculture Products | coffee, soybeans, wheat, rice, corn, sugarcane, cocoa, citrus; beef |
| Currency Code | real (BRL) |
| Child Labor - % of children ages 5-14 | 3% |
| Child Labor - # of children ages 5-14 | 959,942 |
| Child Labor - note | note: data represents children ages 5-13 |
| Commercial Bank Prime Lending Rate | 26.9% |

**Brazil Economy**

**Economic Overview**

Characterized by large and well-developed agricultural, mining, manufacturing, and service sectors, Brazil's economy outweighs that of all other South American countries, and Brazil is expanding its presence in world markets. Since 2003, Brazil has steadily improved its macroeconomic stability, building up foreign reserves, and reducing its debt profile by shifting its debt burden toward real denominated and domestically held instruments. In 2008, Brazil became a net external creditor and two ratings agencies awarded investment grade status to its debt. After strong growth in 2007 and 2008, the onset of the global financial crisis hit Brazil in 2008. Brazil experienced two quarters of recession, as global demand for Brazil's commodity-based exports dwindled and external credit dried up. However, Brazil was one of the first emerging markets to begin a recovery. In 2010, consumer and investor confidence revived and GDP growth reached 7.5%, the highest growth rate in the past 25 years. Rising inflation led the authorities to take measures to cool the economy; these actions and the deteriorating international economic situation slowed growth to 2.7% in 2011, and 1.3% in 2012. Unemployment is at historic lows and Brazil's traditionally high level of income inequality has declined for each of the last 14 years. Brazil's historically high interest rates have made it an attractive destination for foreign investors. Large capital inflows over the past several years have contributed to the appreciation of the currency, hurting the competitiveness of Brazilian manufacturing and leading the government to intervene in foreign exchange markets and raise taxes on some foreign capital inflows. President Dilma ROUSSEFF has retained the previous administration's commitment to inflation targeting by the central bank, a floating exchange rate, and fiscal restraint. In an effort to boost growth, in 2012 the administration implemented a somewhat more expansionary monetary policy that has failed to stimulate much growth.

**Brazil Exports**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Exports | $242,000,000,000 (USD) |
| Major Exports | transport equipment, iron ore, soybeans, footwear, coffee, autos |
| Top Export Partners | China 17%, US 10.8%, Argentina 7.5% |

Brazil Imports

Imports $238,800,000,000 (USD)

Major Imports machinery, electrical and transport equipment, chemical products, oil, automotive parts, electronics

Top Import Partners US 15.1%, China 14.5%, Argentina 7.5%, Germany 6.7%, South Korea 4.5%

**Brazil Flag**

The phrase "Ordem e Progresso", meaning "Order and Progress" is attributed to the French positiviste philosophe Augusto Comte, who had admirers in Brazil. The flag was designed by a painter named Decio Vilares.

**Brazil Flag Description**

green with a large yellow diamond in the center bearing a blue celestial globe with 27 white five-pointed stars (one for each state and the Federal District) arranged in the same pattern as the night sky over Brazil; the globe has a white equatorial band with the motto ORDEM E PROGRESSO (Order and Progress)

The green color represents the Brazilian fields. The yellow losang represents Brazilian gold - and, by extension, the wealthiness of the country. The blue represents the sky of Rio de Janeiro on the night of Nov. 15th 1889;

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Anthem Lyrics English | The peaceful banks of the Ipiranga Heard the resounding cry of an heroic people, And the dazzling rays of the sun of Liberty Bathed our country in their brilliant light. If with strong arm we have succeeded In winning a pledge of equality,  In thy bosom, O Liberty, Our hearts will defy death itself! O adored Fatherland,  Cherished and revered,  All hail! All Hail!  Brazil, a dream sublime, vivid ray of love and hope to earth descends,  Where in your clear, pure, beauteous skies The image of the Southern Cross shines forth.  O country vast by nature,  Fair and strong, brave and colossus,  Thy future mirrors this thy greatness.  O land adored Above all others,  'Tis thee Brazil,  Beloved Fatherland!  Thou art the gentle mother of the children of this soil,  Beloved land,  Brazil!  II Laid out eternally in the splendor of nature,  In the sound of the sea and the light of heaven,  may thou shine, O Brazil, flower of America,  Illumined by the sun of the New World!  More flowers put forth in thy fair, smiling fields Than the in the most gorgeously reputed lands;  "More life is to be found in the groves",  "More love in our lives" in thy embrace.  O adored Fatherland,  Cherished and revered,  All Hail!  All Hail!  May the star-scattered banner flown by thee,  Brazil, become the symbol of eternal love,  And may the green-gold flag proclaim always - Peace in the future and glory in the past - But if the mighty sword of justice drawn forth,  You will perceive your children, who adore you,  neither fear to fight,  nor flee from death itself.   land adored Above all others,  'Tis thee Brazil,  Beloved Fatherland!  Thou art the gentle mother of the children of this soil,  Beloved land,  Brazil! |

**History of Brazil**

**EXPORTS, SLAVERY, AND PATRIARCHY have been the three constants of Brazilian history. The export orientation of the colonial economy shaped Brazil’s society. Even the name "Brazil," like the country itself, is suggestive of commerce and the pursuit of wealth. Brazil’s name derives from the brazilwood trees from which Europeans sought in the sixteenth century to make valuable red dyes. However, the central fact of the country’s history was the exploitation of cheap labor, first as slaves, then as wage-earners. Indeed, Brazil’s history is the story not only of conquest but also of the enslavement of its native peoples and of millions of imported African slaves.**

**Brazil’s history can be divided into five economic periods, each characterized by a dominant export product. The first period, from 1500 to 1550, involved the logging of brazilwood along the coast of the Northeast (Nordeste). Brazilwood was the source of a red dye important to the expanding textile industry of sixteenth-century northern Europe, particularly Normandy and Flanders. The trees and the ready labor of the natives, who were eager to acquire metal products in return for cutting and hauling logs to the coast, attracted Portuguese and French ships. The French were quite successful because they sent young men to reside among the natives, to learn their languages, and to get them to bring the timber to the nearest bay or estuary. By contrast, the Portuguese, in the first few decades, traded from their ships or haphazard outposts. The Portuguese attempted to use the factory system that they were then employing along the African, South Asian, and Asian coasts. This system consisted of fortified trading posts that had minimal contact with the local population. The French, with deeper roots among the native peoples and more knowledge of their cultures, filled their waiting ships more quickly. France’s activity convinced the Portuguese crown to undertake sustained settlement to protect its claim.**

**The Europeans struggled among themselves for control of the beachheads, anchorages, and bays. The Portuguese effort to gain effective control of the coast coincided with the onset of the sugar era, which extended from 1530 to 1650. Sugarcane cultivation was carried out in widely separated tidewater enclaves from São Vicente in the South (Sul--the present-day states of Paraná, Santa Catarina, and Rio Grande do Sul) to Pernambuco in the Northeast; it became most successful around the Bahian Recôncavo and in Pernambuco. Enslaved natives and increasingly, after the 1560s, imported African slaves provided the labor for the mills (*engenhos* ) and fields.**

**Sugar tied Brazil into the developing system of European capitalism, imposed a patriarchal social system on the country, and prompted Dutch attacks on Portugal’s South Atlantic empire. The sugar economy’s need for oxen and meat led to the accompanying growth of cattle raising in the dry interior hinterlands, known as the *sertão* . Cattle raising became so important to the economy and to the development of the interior as to almost constitute a phase in its own right. However, although cattle raising provided hides for export, it supplied principally local markets. The Dutch seizure of Recife in 1630 and their subsequent capture of Luanda on the Angolan coast, a principal source of slaves imported into Brazil, disrupted the Portuguese dominance over sugar. When the Hollanders (*holandeses* ) withdrew from Brazil in 1654, they stimulated cane growing on the Caribbean islands and used their control of distribution in Europe to reduce Portuguese access.**

**The third period--mining of gold and diamonds from the 1690s to the 1750s--carried Portugal’s effective occupation of the land far into the interior of what are now the states of Minas Gerais, Goiás, and Mato Grosso. The discoveries of alluvial gold on the Rio das Velhas in about 1693, throughout central Minas Gerais in the next years, and out into Mato Grosso in 1718 and Goiás in 1725, and then the growth of diamond mining along the Rio Jequitinhonha in Minas Gerais after 1730, shifted the colonial center away from the Northeast coast into the interior. Minas Gerais became the new jewel in Portugal’s crown, although one that was difficult to keep in place. As more people spread to the distant interior, many of them were living beyond the reach of royal officials. Indeed, one of Brazil’s distinctive features has always been the existence of people who live within the boundaries of the country but outside the limits of the society and the controls of the state.**

**The Northeast and the South were tied to Minas Gerais via the livestock trade. The *mineiro* (Minas Gerais) towns needed beef, as well as a seemingly endless supply of mules. Without good roads, mule trains became characteristic of the region, which was soon tied together by an extensive web of trails. The cattle came south from ranches along the Rio São Francisco, thereby linking the mines to the Northeast. The mules came from the pampas of Rio Grande do Sul via the market at Sorocaba in São Paulo, tying the South to the mining region. Because Paulistas (residents of the state of São Paulo) made most of the initial gold strikes, São Paulo was connected to all the mining areas. The importance of Minas Gerais and the mines farther inland led the crown to transfer the viceregal capital from Salvador, Bahia, to Rio de Janeiro in 1763.**

**Gold production declined in the later decades of the eighteenth century, and from about 1820 coffee cultivation provided a fourth period that lasted to the end of the 1920s. It began in the mountains behind Rio de Janeiro, moved along the Rio Paraíba Valley to the west across São Paulo State and out into Paraná. Coffee powered the rise of São Paulo and its port of Santos, and although it gradually took a secondary position to industrialization after the late 1930s, Brazil remained the world’s major coffee producer.**

**The Amazon had an important era of its own from the 1880s to 1919, when it was the world’s major source of rubber. The rubber boom drew world attention to the region, prompted Brazil to secure its boundaries, and lured thousands of rubber tappers from the drought-plagued *sertão* of the Northeast to the forests of Acre. It turned into a bust when the helter-skelter collection of wild rubber lost out to the massive production methods of British, Dutch, and French plantations in Southeast Asia.**

**The fifth period began in the 1930s with import-substitution industrialization (see Glossary) and extended into the 1990s. Industry’s initial and heaviest concentration was in the triangle of São Paulo-Rio de Janeiro-Belo Horizonte. The period was perhaps best symbolized by the steel mills of Volta Redonda, built in 1944, and São Paulo’s integrated industrial zone. Industrialization and its parallel urbanization attracted rural migrants from throughout the country, but especially from the drought-plagued Northeast. In the space of a generation after 1940, Brazil leaped from the age of the bull-cart to that of the internal combustion engine, changing the national map in the process.**

**Before the 1930s, despite the earlier incursions into the interior, Brazil still consisted of a series of enclaves connected by sealanes rather than by railroads or paved highways. Pan American Airway’s introduction of the DC-3 on its run from Belém to Rio de Janeiro in 1940 vaulted Brazil directly into the air age. By the 1970s, it had the world’s third largest commercial air fleet after the United States and the Soviet Union. The 1950s push to develop an automotive industry was followed in later decades by large-scale construction of long-distance highways, which by the 1980s made it possible to travel to all regions of the country on paved roads. Symbolic of this era was the building of Brazil’s third capital at Brasília (1955-60) on the plains of Goiás. The internal combustion engine and the coinciding growth of the petroleum industry also made possible the mechanization of agriculture, which changed rapidly the face of the Brazilian west and made Brazil the second largest exporter of food in the 1980s. The combination of highways and automotive transport opened up Amazônia for the first time. The construction of the highway corridors from Brasília to Belém and from Cuiabá to Porto Velho to Manaus triggered large-scale migration, mining and agricultural development, timbering, land disputes, displacement of native peoples, and massive deforestation. The latter made Brazil’s Amazon policies the subject of world debate, which in turn made Brazilians worry about the security of their immense North region (Amazônia).**

**Brazil History Timeline**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Brazil Year in History** | **Brazil Timeline** |
| **1500** | **Portuguese land in the area and claim it to the Portuguese crown. Portuguese land in the area and claim it to the Portuguese crown.** |
| **1550** | **African slaves were shipped to Brazil to work sugar plantations. African slaves were shipped to Brazil to work sugar plantations.** |
| **1624** | **The Dutch conquered Salvador. The Dutch conquered Salvador.** |
| **1810** | **Overthrow of the king of Spain by Napoleon. Overthrow of the king of Spain by Napoleon.** |
| **1822** | **Prince Pedro declared Brazil independence. Prince Pedro declared Brazil independence and received title of emperor 1824 Pedro promulgated the first constitution; US recognition.** |
| **1852** | **Brazil intervened in Argentina to help overthrow Rosas . Brazil intervened in Argentina to help overthrow Rosas.** |
| **1873** | **Conflict of Church and State over privileges of regalism . Conflict of Church and State over privileges of regalism.** |
| **1888** | **Slavery abolished Slavery abolished. Large influx of European immigrants over the next decade.** |
| **1889** | **Brazilian monarchy was overthrown and a republic was established. Brazilian monarchy was overthrown and a republic was established.** |
| **1891** | **Deodoroda Fonseca, the 1st president of Brazil, was ousted by a navy revolt. Deodoroda Fonseca, the 1st president of Brazil, was ousted by a navy revolt.** |
| **1930** | **Revolt Revolt places Getulio Vargas at head of provisional revolutionary government.** |
| **1931** | **The 98-foot statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro was unveiled. The 98-foot statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro was unveiled on the top of Corcovado Mountain as a Brazilian monument to 100 years of independence from Portugal. The statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeirowas designed by Brazilian artist Carlos Oswald and French sculptor Paul Landowski.** |
| **1939** | **Brazil initially declares itself neutral but in 1943 joins Allies in World War II . Brazil initially declares itself neutral but in 1943 joins Allies in World War II.** |
| **1942** | **Brazil declared war on the Axis powers . Brazil declared war on the Axis powers.** |
| **1945** | **Vargas ousted in military coup Vargas ousted in military coup. Elections held under caretaker government. New constitution returns power to states.** |
| **1951** | **Vargas elected president Vargas elected president, but faces stiff opposition.** |
| **1954** | **Vargas commits suicide Vargas commits suicide after military gives him the options of resigning or being overthrown.** |
| **1956** | **Juscelino Kubitschek is president Juscelino Kubitschek is president, helping Brazil achieve rapid economic growth.** |
| **1960** | **Kubitschek moves capital to Brasilia . Kubitschek moves capital to Brasilia.** |
| **1988** | **New constitution reduces presidential powers . New constitution reduces presidential powers.** |
| **2001** | **President Cardoso abolishes two development agencies President Cardoso abolishes two development agencies for the Amazon and the north-east. The authorities say the agencies set up bogus projects to steal development funds estimated at more than $1 billion.** |
| **2003** | **Space rocket explodes Space rocket explodes on the ground at the Alcantara launch base, killing 21 people.** |
| **2004** | **Brazil launches its first space rocket . Brazil launches its first space rocket.** |
| **2004** | **Red April  Wave of land invasions, dubbed "Red April" by activists** |
| **2005** | **Voters in a referendum reject a proposal to ban the sale of firearms. Voters in a referendum reject a proposal to ban the sale of firearms.** |
| **2007** | **Government recognizes human rights abuses Government officially recognizes for the first time human rights abuses carried out under military dictatorship between 1964 and 1985. Where more than 500 people are believed to have been killed or "disappeared"** |
| **2009** | **Major blackouts Brazil's two largest cities - Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo - are hit by major blackouts due to a problem at a massive hydro-electric dam.** |
| **2011** | **Belo Monte dam planned Brazil grants building permit for Belo Monte dam on the Xingu River in the Amazon, a project opposed by indigenous groups and environmentalists.** |
| **2013** | **Currency Swap Deal China and Brazil sign a currency swap deal, designed to safeguard against future global financial crises.** |

**Brazil Holidays and Events**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Display Date | Title |
| September 7th | **Independence Day** |
| October 23rd | **Birth date - Edson Arantes do Nascimento (Pelé)**  Birth date - Edson Arantes do Nascimento  (Pelé), soccer great, was born on Oct. 23, 1940 in Tres Coracoes, Brazil |
| December 25th | **Christmas** *Presbres* (Nativity scenes) are the focus of Christmas and the season begins with children making the figures from brightly colored sawdust. The figures move forward each day to commemorate the journey to Bethlehem.  Sometime in mid-December *Papai Noel* (Santa Clause) arrives. He travels to Brazil by helicopter and lands in Rio de Janeiro's MaracanÃ? stadium amid a jubilant crowd. During the following days he may be seen in other cities or at many of the town's shopping centers.  Christmas dinner is eaten late in the evening around 10 or 11 pm on Christmas Eve. The meal often features roast turkey with *farofa* (stuffing), dried cod, and *rabanada* (French-toast like dessert). After dinner many attend Midnight Mass held in Roman Catholic churches. |

**Brazil Meals and Food**

Recipes from Brazil

* [Almondegas (Meatballs) - Main Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/recipe/almondegas-meatballs.htm)
* [Bolinhas de Frango e Amendoas (Almond Chicken Balls) - Appetizer](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/recipe/bolinhas-de-frango-e-amendoas-almond-chicken-balls.htm)
* [Bombocado (Coconut Custard) - Dessert](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/recipe/bombocado-coconut-custard.htm)
* [Brigadeiro (Fudge Balls) - Dessert](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/recipe/brigadeiro-fudge-balls.htm)
* [Costelata de Porco com Abacaxi (Pork Chops with Pineapple) - Main Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/recipe/costelata-de-porco-com-abacaxi-pork-chops-with-pineapple.htm)
* [Emolado de Frango (Chicken Roll-up) - Side Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/recipe/emolado-de-frango-chicken-roll-up.htm)
* [Feijoada (Baked Beans and Pork) - Side Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/recipe/feijoada-baked-beans-and-pork.htm)
* [Maracujá Mousse (Passion Fruit Mousse) - Dessert](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/recipe/maracuja-mousse-passion-fruit-mousse.htm)
* [Moqueca de Peixe (Flounder) - Main Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/recipe/moqueca-de-peixe-flounder.htm)
* [Pão de Queijo (Cheeseballs) - Side Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/recipe/pao-de-queijo-cheeseballs.htm)
* [Panquecas (Dinner Crêpes) - Main Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/recipe/panquecas-dinner-crepes.htm)
* [Pudim de Chocolate (Chocolate Pudding) - Dessert](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/recipe/pudim-de-chocolate-chocolate-pudding.htm)
* [Salada de Palmito (Hearts of Palm Salad) - Side Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/recipe/salada-de-palmito-hearts-of-palm-salad.htm)
* [Uva Cristalizada (Crystal Grapes) - Dessert](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/recipe/uva-cristalizada-crystal-grapes.htm)
* [Vatapa do Frango (Chicken Vatapa) - Main Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/recipe/vatapa-do-frango-chicken-vatapa.htm)
* [Vinagrete (Provincial Vinagrette) - Side Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Brazil/recipe/vinagrete-provincial-vinagrette.htm)

**Brazil Recipes and Diet**

Brazil food and meal customs

**Diet**

Breakfast usually consists of cafe com leite (coffee with milk), bread, cheese or marmalade, and butter. Lunch and dinner are the main meals and may include beans, rice, meat, salad, fruit, potatoes, and bread. The people drink plenty of coffee and mate, and herbal tea. Brazilian food is very tasty. In some provinces foods are often spiced with palm oil. Pão de Queijo are a famous snack and can be found on most street corners in the large cities.

**Meals**

Brazilians eat in continental style. People wash their hands before eating and refrain from touching food while eating. One's mouth is wiped each time before drinking. After-meal conversation often takes place over a cup of strong black coffee.

The average Brazilian that has money to eat usually eats bread and black coffee (with or without milk) in the morning. At lunch almost everybody eats rice and beans, some kind of meat, chicken or egg, and some kind of salad. At night people might eat a soup, or repeat the breakfast or the lunch menu.

At small cities, middle class people still go home for lunch. Poorer people might have to bring lunch to work.

Food in Brazil

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**Brazil Languages**

**Languages**

Portuguese (official and most widely spoken language)  
  
note: less common languages include Spanish (border areas and schools), German, Italian, Japanese, English, and a large number of minor Amerindian languages

Portuguese is Brazil's official language. English, German, and French are popular second languages. Although Spanish is also understood by Portuguese speakers, some Brazilians may be offended when deliberately spoken in Spanish.

**Language Translations:**

**Greetings in Portuguese**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Do you speak English? | Fala ingles? |
| Excuse me | Desculpe |
| Fine / Good | Bem |
| Good afternoon | Boa tarde |
| Good evening | Boa noite |
| Good morning | Bom dia |
| Good night | Boa noite |
| Goodbye | Adeus |
| Happy New Year! | Feliz Ano Novo! |
| Hello | Ola |
| How are you? | Como esta? |
| I'm pleased to meet you | Muito prazer em conhece-lo |
| Merry Christmas | Feliz Natal |
| Please | Por favor |
| See you later | Ate logo |
| Thank you | Obrigado |
| Welcome | Bemvindo |
| Yes / No | Sim / Nao |

**Days in Portuguese**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sunday | Domingo |
| Monday | Segunda-feira |
| Tuesday | Terça-feira |
| Wednesday | Quarta-feira |
| Thursday | Quinta-feira |
| Friday | Sexta-feira |
| Saturday | Sábado |

**Months in Portuguese**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| January | Janeiro |
| February | Fevereiro |
| March | Março |
| April | Abril |
| May | maio |
| June | Junho |
| July | Julho |
| August | Agosto |
| September | Setembro |
| October | Outubro |
| November | Novembro |
| December | Dezembro |

**Greetings in French**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Do you speak English? | Parlez-vous anglais? |
| Do you speak French? | Parlez-vous francais? |
| Excuse me | Excusez-moi |
| Fine / Good | Bien |
| Good afternoon | Bon aprés-midi |
| Good evening | Bonsoir |
| Good morning | Bonjour / Bon matin |
| Good night | Bonne nuit |
| Goodbye | Au revoir |
| Happy Birthday | Bon anniversaire |
| Happy New Year! | Bonne Annee! |
| Hello | Bonjour |
| How are you? | Comment allez-vous? |
| I'm pleased to meet you | Enchanté |
| Merry Christmas | Joyeux Noël |
| Please | S'il vous plait |
| See you later | A bientôt |
| Thank you | Merci |
| You're Welcome | Pas de quoi |
| Yes / No | Oui / Non |

**Days in French**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sunday | Dimanche |
| Monday | Lundi |
| Tuesday | Mardi |
| Wednesday | Mecredi |
| Thursday | Jeudi |
| Friday | Vendredi |
| Saturday | Samedi |

**Months in French**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| January | Janvier |
| February | Février |
| March | Mars |
| April | Avril |
| May | Mai |
| June | Juin |
| July | Juillet |
| August | Aout |
| September | Septembre |
| October | Octobre |
| November | Novembre |
| December | Décembre |

**Colors in French**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Black | noir/noire |
| Green | vert/verte |
| Orange | orange |
| Pink | rose |
| Purple | violet/violette |
| Red | rouge |
| White | blanc/blanche |
| Yellow | jaune |

**Numbers in French**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| one | un |
| two | deux |
| three | trois |
| four | quatre |
| five | cinq |
| six | six |
| seven | sept |
| eight | huit |
| nine | neuf |
| ten | dix |
| fifty | cinquante |
| eleven | onze |
| twelve | douze |
| thirteen | treize |
| fourteen | quatorze |
| fifteen | quinze |
| sixteen | seize |
| seventeen | dix-sept |
| eighteen | dix-huit |
| nineteen | dix-neuf |
| twenty | vingt |
| twenty-one | vingt et un |
| twenty-two | vingt-deux |
| twenty-three | vingt-trois |
| twenty-four | vingt-quatre |
| twenty-five | vingt-cinq |
| twenty-six | vingt-six |
| twenty-seven | vingt-sept |
| twenty-eight | vingt-huit |
| twenty-nine | vingt-neuf |
| thirty | trent |
| one hundred | cent |
| five hundred | cinq cents |
| one thousand | mille |

**Seasons in French**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Autumn | automne |
| Winter | hiver |
| Spring | le printemps |
| Summer | été |

**Continents in French**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Africa | Afrique |
| Antarctica | Antarctique |
| Asia | Asie |
| Australia | Australie |
| Europe | Europe |
| North America | Amérique du Nord |
| South America | Amérique du Sud |

**Greetings in Spanish**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Do you speak English? | Habla usted ingles? |
| Do you speak Spanish? | Habla usted espanol? |
| Excuse me | Dispenseme |
| Fine / Good | Bien |
| Good afternoon | Buenas tardes |
| Good evening | Buenas tardes |
| Good morning | Buenos diás |
| Good night | Buenas noches |
| Goodbye | Adios |
| Happy New Year! | ¡Felíz año nuevo! |
| Hello | ¡Hóla! |
| How are you? | Como esta usted? |
| I'm pleased to meet you | Encantado de conocerle |
| Merry Christmas | Feliz Navidad |
| Please | Por favor |
| See you later | Hasta luego |
| Thank you | Gracias |
| Welcome | Bienvenido |
| What is your name? | Como se llama? / Deme su nombre |
| Yes / No | Si / No |

**Days in Spanish**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sunday | Domingo |
| Monday | Lunes |
| Tuesday | Martes |
| Wednesday | Miercoles |
| Thursday | Jueves |
| Friday | Viernes |
| Saturday | Sabado |

**Months in Spanish**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| January | Enero |
| February | Febrero |
| March | marzo |
| April | Abril |
| May | Mayo |
| June | Junio |
| July | Julio |
| August | Agosto |
| September | Septiembre |
| October | Octubre |
| November | Noviembre |
| December | Diciembre |

**Colors in Spanish**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Black | Negro |
| Blue | Azul |
| Green | Verde |
| Orange | Anaranjado |
| Pink | Rosado |
| Red | Rojo |
| White | Blanco |
| Yellow | Amarillo |

**Numbers in Spanish**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| One | Uno |
| Two | Dos |
| Three | Tres |
| Four | Cuatro |
| Five | Cinco |
| Six | Seis |
| Seven | Siete |
| Eight | Ocho |
| Nine | Nueve |
| Ten | Diez |
| Fifty | Cincuenta |
| one Hundred | Cien |
| One Thousand | mil |

**Brazil Clothing and Fashion**

Brazilians prefer to wear European fashions, specifically Italian and French, in the cities. The people are very fashion conscious, especially women and wear the latest styles. Shoes are well kept and polished. Manicures and pedicures are popular.

People sometimes put on ritual clothes when they want to be distinguished according to their origins ancestors or to the region of Brazil they are from. Each Brazilian region, state or city has its own culture and therefore, way of dressing.

**Dating, Family and Children Brazil**

**Dating and Marriage**

Group dating starts at about age fourteen. Serious dating and engagements may last as long as two or three years. Traditional families expect the young man to ask the girl's father for permission to be her boyfriend. Weddings may include two ceremonies: a legal civil ceremony and optional religious ceremony. Wedding parties are lavish and elegant, with much food, drink, and music.

**Family and Children**

Families are traditionally large and may include the extended family. The elderly who cannot care for themselves live with their children because it is improper to send them to a nursing home. The family is led by the father. The mother does have an influence in decisions however, especially those affecting the home. Children usually only leave home when they marry and rarely before. Men may leave early for employment reasons, but it is not uncommon for them to live at home until they are 30 if unmarried. Family members are very reliant on each other for assistance and enjoy being together. Women and young people often work to help and support families.

**Brazil Gestures and Greetings**

**Greetings**

Brazilians greet each other with a handshake; good friends often embrace. Women often kiss each other on alternating cheeks. When joining or leaving a small group, it is polite to shake hands with all who are present. People will also say “Bom Dia” (Good Morning) “Boa tarde ” (Good afternoon), “Como vai” (How do you do), “Tudo bem ” (Are you fine) or “Oi”.

**Gestures**

People usually stay closer to each other than those in European societies when talking. If they belong to the same economic class they usually look each other in the eyes during conversation. Poorer people usually look down when they talk to someone they consider to be of higher social standing.

The “OK” sign, with the thumb and index finger forming a circle, is considered offensive. The “thumbs- up” sign is used to show approval. To beckon, all fingers of the hand wave with the palm facing down. To get someone’s attention from a distance, people say “Pssssst”. Whistling at people is considered rude. Using a toothpick in public is rude if not done with discretion by covering the hand holding the toothpick with the other hand.

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**Visiting**

Brazilians enjoy visiting with one another. Their warm climate permits for much time outdoors, including socializing outdoors late into the evening hours. When invited to a home, guests generally arrive several minutes late. If invited to dinner, a gift of candy, wine, or a small figurine is appropriate. One is generally expected to stay at least two hours. It is rude to ask personal questions, such as about age or salary. Brazilians love to go out for a drink with friends, and in small villages people still gather at night for talks or for dances.

If you show up impromptu it is not impolite for the host to politely turn you away.

**Cultural Attributes**

Brazilians often have strong opinions and will argue for their conviction with a vigor that may seem like anger, but is not. Brazilians tend to view time more as a sequence of events rather than hours and minutes. People are polite in crowds and shoving is considered discourteous.

Most Middle and Lower class Brazilians feel the work ”to survive” Middle class members usually wish they could give their children a fair education (which in most cases is a guarantee of entering the best public universities. Lower classes worry about having food to eat and having a car or some other facilities which would make living easier.

The government has official standards for classifying who is poor and who is to be considered rich. Usually families who own houses, apartments land or have a company are seen as “rich” by others.



**Brazil Church and Religion**

Brazil is traditionally a strong Roman Catholic country. In the north east, many practice Afro-Brazilian religions that combine tribal beliefs with Catholicism.   
The Constitution provides for freedom of religion, and other laws and  
policies contributed to the generally free practice of religion. The  
law at all levels protects this right in full against abuse, either by  
governmental or private actors.  
There are no registration requirements for religious groups. There is  
no favored or state religion, although the Government has a concordat  
with the Vatican. All religious groups are free to establish places of  
worship, train clergy, and proselytize. There is a general provision  
for access to religious services and counsel in all civil and military  
establishments. The law prohibits discrimination based on religion.  
The following holy days are observed as national or regional holidays:  
Saint Sebastian's Day, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Corpus Christi,  
Saint John's Day, Our Lady of Carmen (Carmo), Assumption Day, Our Lady  
Aparecida, All Souls' Day, Evangelicals Day, Immaculate Conception, and  
Christmas.  
Public schools are required to offer religious instruction, but neither  
the Constitution nor legislation defines how this should be done.  
Religious instruction is optional for students. Each school defines how  
to offer religious instruction and in which religion, usually in  
agreement with parent councils. Education is mandatory for all  
children, but parents are free to send their children to the public or  
private school of their choice. The law prohibits public subsidies to  
schools that religious groups operate.  
The Government restricted the access of nonindigenous persons,  
including missionaries, to indigenous reserves and required visitors to  
seek permission from the National Indigenous Foundation to enter  
indigenous areas; this permission also required an invitation from a  
member of the indigenous group to be visited.  
It is illegal to write, edit, publish, or sell books that promote  
anti-Semitism or racism. The law enables courts to fine or imprison  
anyone who displays, distributes, or broadcasts anti-Semitic or racist  
material and mandates a 2 to 5-year prison term for violators.

**Students Life in Brazil**

**Mornings**

Most Brazilian homes in the country do not have running water or electricity. Homes in the city may have both, but not always for the entire day. This means that getting ready in the morning is usually simple and fast. Breakfast may consist of fresh fruit or bread and a drink of fresh fruit juice or coffee (Brazil produces one-fourth of all the coffee in the world, and the people there love to drink it!). Because many Brazilians have European roots, breakfast can also be influenced by the countries their ancestors came from.

**School**

Kids in rural schools will walk, ride their bikes, or even take a boat for half an hour to get to school. Many of these poorer students do not have electricity or running water in their homes. In the cities, electricity is much more common, but even then not every one will be guaranteed power in their homes 24 hours a day. In the cities, poorer children will walk to school, but wealthier families will often drive their children to school (usually private school!). School begins at 7:30 or 8:00 in the morning and is finished at noon. Students return home to eat their midday meal, which is still the most important meal of the day in much of the country.

**Classroom**

Primary schools are run by the cities, secondary schools are under the control of Brazilian states, and the national government operates the universities*.* At all levels, there is not enough money in the public school system to properly educate students. There are not enough books and other materials, and teachers are paid poorly. The buildings themselves are usually made of brick, but may not have windows, and the only teaching materials are usually a blackboard and chalk. Schools are often run down and not well maintained; however, they usually do have electricity, running water, and a bathroom.

A related problem is the lack of properly trained teachers. As many as a quarter of a million teaching positions remain unfilled each year, which means that many people are hired to teach without any training besides their desire to help where they can. Too often, that is not enough.

Most students in both public and private schools are required to wear a school uniform, which usually includes a simple T-shirt with the school’s name printed on it.

Interestingly, part of the reason for the overcrowding is that the government has been working to increase the number of children who attend school. In 2000, 94 percent of primary-aged children attended school, as opposed to only 84 percent nearly a decade earlier and 50 percent in 1960. More children, fewer funds—the result is educational failure for hundreds of thousands of children. It is not surprising that there is a very high drop out rate as the children get older.

**Student Learning**

There is a lot of variation in schools in Brazil, but basic classes include Portuguese, social studies, history, geography, science, and math. Brazil is the only country in South America that speaks Portuguese as the national language instead of Spanish. English is the most popular second language for students in school. However, most of the children who learn a second language will do so through speaking to tourists and people living in Brazil who were born elsewhere. The school system usually does not do a very good job at educating the children, despite the efforts of some very dedicated teachers. There are simply not enough of them, nor do they have enough resources.

High school students take classes in Portuguese, literature, biology, chemistry, geography, physics, math, history, geometry, social studies, physical education, and a second language (typically English).

Most kids are able to write and read very basic Portuguese when they leave school for jobs, but many are not able to do so fluently with a very large vocabulary. In other words, most can get by in day to day living, but even simple reports would be challenging for most to write.

In some rural areas where teachers and schools just cannot meet the demands, the government broadcasts classes over the radio.

One study reported on the drop out rate of students from schools. To begin with, only 12.5% of all preschool age children actually attend preschool. Of every 100 students that begin first grade, half will quit during the first two years of school. Thirteen more will be gone by fourth grade, and another 20 will quit by 8th grade. Only 9 of the original 100 will finish high school, and only 6 will attend university. The study did not say how many would graduate from the university.

**After School Activities**

Extracurricular activities in Brazilian schools are rare. Participation in athletics and other interests are handled by clubs and private organizations instead of schools. Nonetheless, some private schools, community groups, and others recognize that there is a need for children to fill their free time with useful and positive activities. Some of these groups are organizing activities for children after school, including sports, performing arts (music, dance, theater), computer skills, service, and social education (topics include drugs, sexuality, and other social challenges

**Student Free Time**

Brazilians love *futebol* (soccer), which is easily their favorite sport. Rio de Janeiro has the world’s largest soccer stadium, which can hold up to 200,000 fans. Children everywhere love to play soccer, and those who can afford it will usually join a soccer club. However, they are also fond of basketball, volleyball, beach sports, and similar activities. Brazil has many miles of ocean coast and a warm, tropical climate throughout much of the country; this allows a great variety of fun, relaxed times with friends and family, including fishing, boating, skin diving, and just simply swimming.

Brazilian children love to play. They mix play with their school and with their work. They are creative and social with one another. Teenagers enjoy going to movies or hanging out together at an outdoor café. Unfortunately, so many families are poor that many children must work after school or drop out of school altogether in order to help support the family.

**Evenings**

In Brazil, as in many Latin American countries, meal time is an important family social event. In urban areas, it is not unusual for extended families to join together at meal time to eat and enjoy one another. In rural areas and the poorer sections of cities, meals are based on beans, rice, and dried beef and pork. Southern Brazil is known for its charcoal broiled meats. Along the coast, families often include bananas, coconuts, and fish in their cooking.

In rural areas, after school the children will come home and work alongside their parents—fishing, hunting, harvesting foods or lumber in the forest, and similar types of work. Girls will help with essential household duties, caring for other children, cooking, and cleaning.

Family members support one another in all aspects of life. They help with childcare, they work together, they play together. Unlike some countries, in Brazil families will attend parties together and spend much time in social activities together when not working.

**Education Culture**

The public school system in Brazil is free. Children from ages 7 to 14 are required to attend primary school and from ages 15 to 17 must attend secondary school, but the law is very difficult to enforce. Public high schools are also free, but most high schools are private, many of which are run by the Catholic Church.

School begins in Brazil in mid-February, right after the summer break, and goes until the end of November. Students then have the months of December, January, and part of February to enjoy a summer vacation. The school year has four quarters, with a four-week vacation in July.

School begins at 7:30 or 8:00 in the morning and lasts only four hours, finishing at noon. Students return home to eat their midday meal, which is still the most important meal of the day in much of the country. Some schools are in session Monday through Saturday and just have Sunday off, although most hold classes only Monday through Friday. After the midday meal, students are expected to study at home.

But Brazilian schools are in trouble, especially the public schools. The government has not supplied enough funds to properly run the school system. Teachers are not properly trained, and children are not learning as they should. Fewer than 1 out of every 20 fourth graders is able to read very well at all, and less than 2 of every 20 have the math skills that they should have. Private and community groups recognize the terrible conditions of modern education and are trying to add classes and opportunities outside of the schools, but they have too few resources and there are far too many children to take care of.

One way of dealing with the social problems that the children face is by providing school fulltime instead of just in the mornings. This helps keep them off the streets and out of trouble. Also, by educating the children better, caring individuals hope to teach the children to get better jobs than their parents have and thus break the cycle of poverty in which these children are being raised. Approximately 60 percent of all Brazilian adults have four years of school or less. Similarly, because many older children must quit school to get a job, less than 40 percent of secondary-school aged children are in school. In poorer families, children quit school as early as ten years old to join their families at work.

**Brazil Sport and Recreation**

Boys usually play soccer, Girls and boys usually swim as children and many also may play volleyball. Sports are not taken seriously, usually people go to special training centers if they want to seriously dedicate themselves to any sport or dance. At less privileged communities people usually organize sport practicing centers.

**Brazil Recreation Photos**

[[http://d2z7bzwflv7old.cloudfront.net/cdn_image/exH_50/images/photos/br/soccer.jpg](http://d2z7bzwflv7old.cloudfront.net/cdn_image/maxW_1200/images/photos/br/soccer.jpg)](http://d2z7bzwflv7old.cloudfront.net/cdn_image/maxW_1200/images/photos/br/soccer.jpg)